All possible security and counter measures at airports in Jammu & Kashmir are taken in consultation with the concerned agencies. The implementation of these measures is also monitored and reviewed by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security from time to time.

Disposal of grounded Westland Helicopters

1176. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Westland Helicopters grounded in early 1991 have no scrap value and that global tenders to sell these helicopters have been invited;

(b) whether it is also a fact that under the contractual obligation, permission of the manufactures have to be obtained with regard to the utilisation of the sale proceeds; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the response received from the international buyers and the decision, if any, taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No global tender has yet been floated.

(b) No, Sir. However, since the purchase of Westland helicopters was financed through a grant from the Government of United Kingdom, clearance of that Government is required for disposal of these helicopters under the terms of the grant.

(c) Does not arise.

Night landing facility at Agartala Airport

1177. SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that night landing facility has not been provided at Agartala airport;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to make this facility available there; and

(c) if so, by when it is likely to be provided ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) Agartala airport has been provided with night landing facilities. The National Airports Authority has further plans to upgrade the existing facilities by introducing the following :—

(i) The conversion of Medium Intensity Runway Lighting (MIRL) system to High Intensity Runway Lighting (HIRL) system.

(ii) Provision of Abridged Visual Approach Slope Indicator (AVASI) system at both ends of the runway.

Development of Indian Aviation Industry

1178. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have invited foreign capital and technology for collaborative partnership for an integrated development of India's aviation industry; and

(b) if so, what are the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) Government's policy in this matter was indicated at the annual assembly of Airports Association Council International (AACI) on 10th of November, 1992 in Madrid (Spain), as follows :

India would welcome mutually beneficial relationships with willing partners for an integrated development of its aviation industry. India's expanding market has the capacity and capability of absorbing transfer of the latest technologies. Setting up of advanced avionics industry would also help India utilise her skilled man power and an economic mode of production based on natural comparative advantage.